

Claims

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method to facilitate network-based shopping comprising;
2 facilitating a communication between a network-based auction facility and a seller
3 whereby the seller authorizes a bidder to bid on an offering offered for sale by the seller;
4 and
5 automatically recording the bidder as authorized to bid on the offering responsive to
6 the communication.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the network-based auction facility prevents the
2 bidder from bidding on the offering without the authorization from the seller.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the bidder and the seller have buying and selling
2 privileges respectively with the network-based auction facility.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication includes a seller request to
2 authorize bidders to bid on the offering.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication includes allowing the seller to
2 add and to remove an authorization restriction multiple times during an auction of the
3 offering.

1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the communication includes a bidder request to the
2 seller to authorize the bidder to bid on the offering.

1 7. The method of claim 4, including providing access to the seller to the bidder's
2 bidding history and profile information thereby to assist the seller in determining whether
3 to authorize the bidder to bid on the offering.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the bidder's bidding history and profile information
2 is provided by the network-based auction facility.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the item includes a high profile offering.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the network-based auction facility includes the
2 auction web site.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein an authorization restriction requirement is
2 displayed on the offering web page.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein a seller vetting process information is displayed on
2 a personalized web page of the seller linked to a web page of the offering.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the seller authorizes only a predetermined currency
2 to be used to purchase the offering offered for sale by the seller.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the seller authorizes a predetermined geographic
2 area, and wherein a bidder within the predetermined geographic area is allowed by the
3 network-based auction facility to bid on the offering offered for sale by the seller and a
4 further bidder outside the predetermined geographic area is prevented from bidding on
5 the offering.

1 16. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 facilitating a communication between a network-based shopping facility and a seller
3 whereby the seller authorizes a buyer to buy an offering offered for sale by the seller; and
4 automatically recording the buyer as authorized to buy the offering responsive to
5 the communication.

1 17. A system to facilitate network-based shopping comprising:
2 a communications module to facilitate a communication between a network-based
3 auction facility and a seller; and
4 an authorization module to facilitate a seller authorization of a bidder to bid on an
5 offering via the communication.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the authorization module is to prevent the
2 bidder from bidding on the offering without the authorization from the seller.

1 19. The system of claim 17, wherein the bidder and the seller have buying and selling
2 privileges respectively with the network based auction facility.

1 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the communication includes a seller request to
2 authorize bidders to bid on the offering

1 21. The system of claim 17, wherein the seller can add and remove the pre-approval
2 restriction multiple times during the auction of the offering.

1 22. The system of claim 20, wherein the communication includes a bidder request to the
2 seller to authorize the bidder to bid on the offering.

1 23. The system of claim 20, wherein the communications module is to provide access to
2 the seller to the bidder's bidding history and profile information thereby to assist the seller
3 in determining whether to authorize the bidder to bid on the offering.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the bidder's bidding history and profile information
2 is provided by the network-based auction facility.

1 25. The system of claim 17, wherein the offering includes a high profile offering.

1 26. The system of claim 17, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1 27. The system of claim 26, wherein the network-based auction facility includes the
2 auction web site.

1 28. The system of claim 26, wherein an authorization restriction requirement is
2 displayed on the offering web page.

1 29. The system of claim 17, wherein a seller vetting process information is displayed on
2 a personalized web page of the seller linked to a web page of the offering.

1 30. The system of claim 17, wherein the seller authorizes only a predetermined currency
2 to be used to purchase the offering offered for sale by the seller.

1 31. The system of claim 17, wherein the seller authorizes a predetermined geographic
2 area, and wherein a bidder within the predetermined geographic area is allowed by the
3 network-based auction facility to bid on the offering offered for sale by the seller and a
4 further bidder outside the predetermined geographic area is prevented from bidding on
5 the offering.

1 32. The system of claim 17, further comprising:
2 a communications module to facilitate a communication between a network-based
3 shopping facility and a seller; and
4 an authorization module to facilitate a seller authorization of a buyer to buy an
5 offering via the communication.

1 33. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a set of instructions to translate
2 instructions, the set instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor
3 to perform a method to facilitate network-based shopping comprising:
4 facilitating a communication between a network-based auction facility and a seller
5 whereby the seller authorizes a bidder to bid on an offering offered for sale by the seller;
6 and
7 automatically recording the bidder as authorized to bid on the offering responsive to
8 the communication.

1 34. A system to facilitate network-based shopping comprising:
2 means for facilitating a communication between a network-based auction facility
3 and a seller; and
4 means for facilitating a seller authorization of a bidder to bid on an offering via the
5 communication.